CHINA BULLETIN

of the

FAR EASTERN OFFICE

Division of Foreign Missions, NCCC/USA

475 Riverside Drive, New York 27

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Vol. XI, No. 8 April, 1961

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HE THREE SELF NATIONAL CONFERENCE IN SHANGHAI

Our previous report on this Conference in the February 13 Bulletin was taken from RNS and om a Hsinhua English report of January 21. We now have a translation of a report in Chinese Hsinhua issued on January 20, which gives a number of additional details.

In this report the Conference is called "the Second National Conference of Chinese Chris-ans". The first Conference was held in July 1954. A later meeting held in March, 1956, was scribed at the time as an enlarged plenary session of the National Committee of the Three lf Patriotic Movement. It is therefore not counted as a "Conference".

We now learn that the Conference was of considerable duration. It met from November 12, 960 to January 14, 1961. It was therefore more of the nature of a political study institute than Conference. "In the course of the Conference, the representatives intensively studied and dis-ssed topics pertaining to the international and domestic situations, the policies toward religion, e future anti-imperialist and patriotic tasks of the Chinese Christian circles, and the political d ideological transformation of Christians. The Conference heard and unanimously approved e work report delivered by Wu Yi-fang, Vice-Chairman of the National Committee of Protes-nt Churches in China for Realization of Self-administration (i.e., the Three Self Committee), esented on behalf of the previous Committee. The Conference also revised the constitution of e Committee and adopted the 'Resolution of the 2nd National Conference of Chinese Chris-ans'."

After stressing the achievements of the past ten years, the Conference noted that "Imperi-ism, particularly U.S. imperialism, has not reconciled itself to death, but has continued to sort to all possible means in an attempt to use religion to perpetrate sabotage against New ina. Accordingly, the Christian circles must raise their vigilance and maintain efforts for tensive development of the anti-imperialist and patriotic movement.

"The Conference opined that since liberation, especially in the wake of the movement for cialist education, Christian circles have made considerable progress in the field of political d ideological self-transformation. At the same time, however, there are also certain prob-ms remaining. It is, therefore, necessary to continue efforts to promote the political and eological self-transformation.

"The representatives thanked the CCP and the People's Government for their consistent plementation of policies insuring freedom of religion and faith, and for their considerable ncern and help shown in many ways to the Christian circles.

ssued monthly to keep mission boards and missionaries informed on Christian work in China. nformation from Chinese church magazines and other Chinese sources is passed on as objec-vely as possible, with a minimum of interpretation. When interpretation is necessary, it is en-losed in parentheses as the comment of the editor. ANNUAL RATES: Domestic, $1.50; Over-eas, Firstclass $3.00, Secondclass $2.50. Airmail $4.00 in 15¢ zone, $6.00 in 25¢ zone.

"The Resolution adopted by the Conference pointed out that the tasks henceforth for the Christian circles would be: (1) Maintaining efforts to oppose imperialist aggression, to safeguar world peace, and to thoroughly fulfill the tasks of self-government, self-support, and self-propagation of Christianity. (2) Whole-heartedly accepting the leadership of the CCP, followin the path of socialism, and actively participating, together with the people of the whole countr in the various projects of socialist construction of the motherland. (3) Strengthening political and ideological self-transformation and actively serving socialist construction. (4) Assisting the Government in carrying out policies for freedom of religion and faith and in arranging for religious activities, under the premise of serving the interest of production, policies, and ordinances of the State and socialism." ("Under the premise of" means that the latter interests mu come first.)

Two Government representatives spoke during the Conference. They were Chang Chih-yi, Deputy Director of the United Front Work Department under the CCP Central Committee, and Ho Cheng-hsiang, Director of the Religious Affairs Bureau under the State Council.

The Conference elected a Committee, called the Second National Committee, of 145 members, with Chairman and Vice-Chairmen as given in the February 13 Bulletin. This Committee has a Standing Committee of 49, and we now have a few additional names of members of this Committee. It includes, besides those mentioned previously, Miss Tso Fu-ju (Little Flock, Shanghai), Sun Yao-tsung (Pastor, Independent Church in Harbin), Li Ch'u-wen (Pastor, Community Church, Shanghai), Ch'en Chien-hsun (Lutheran, of Wuhan), Ts'ui Hsien-hsiang (formerly General Secretary of the Church of Christ in China), and Hsiung Chen-p'ei (Methodis - Shun Tao Hui - pastor in Canton). (It is our understanding that Dr. H. H. Ts'ui, under attac as a rightist, resigned his position as General Secretary of the CCC two or three years ago, and was assigned to "historical research", i.e., combing church records for examples of Western imperialism. Evidently, however, he is still in good standing in the Three Self Movement.)

(This report makes the official character of the "Second National Conference" much more explicit. It may be conjectured that one of its main purposes was to bring the National Committee of 145 and its Standing Committee of 49 up-to-date, so that they might have the mandate of the Christian Church in China for working out the details of united church organization

PERSECUTION REPORT FROM TIBET

A 23-year-old Buddhist lama, Lobsong Lowang, has recently escaped to Darjeeling, and r ports that in recent months the Chinese have intensified persecution of all religion. He told of intensified genocide, public torture and defiling of monasteries. He had been a member of the Tashilunpoh Monastery in Shigatse, and was one of seventy from the monastery who were put i prison. He said that he watched fifty of his fellow-prisoners tortured to death in public. Some of those imprisoned were the Panchen Lama's own relatives, and so Lowang believes that the Panchen Lama must now have fallen from Communist favor. In this he is evidently mistaken, for the Panchen Lama was received in audience by Mao Tse-tung on January 23, and Chou En-lai gave a banquet for him on January 24. By March 5 he was back in Lhasa, and a Hsinhua report of that date states that he had just received in audience thirteen new Tibetan Geshi (tra lated by the report as 'Doctors of Divinity').

Lowang reports that all the followers of the Dalai Lama have been liquidated. He believe that he owes his own life to the fact that he is an Indian citizen, born in Ladakh, and that ther fore the Chinese did not wish to provoke India by murdering him.

(In the nature of the case it is impossible to confirm such reports, and the testimony of a single individual, who has manifestly been mistreated and therefore holds deep enmity against the Communist regime, must be taken with great caution.)

ASIAN SURVEY

Volume I, Number 1 of the Asian Survey appeared in March, put out by the Institute of International Studies of the University of California. Its Editorial Board includes besides UC authorities in this field such national figures as John K. Fairbank of Harvard, George E. Taylo of the University of Washington and C. Martin Wilbur of Columbia University. This first numb

of the monthly contains 52 pages of offset printing (no advertising), with articles on the following subjects: Behind the 1960 Japanese Diet Election; General Nasution's Mission to Moscow; Phantom Food in Communist China; The Future of Indian Cities; The Burma-China Border Settlement; Missionaries Among the Hill Tribes of Burma.

The Phantom Food article is by Reed J. Irvine. In it he advances the thesis that the Chinese Government was deceived by its own statistics of food production in 1958, and accordingly reduced grain acreage for 1959 by 11 per cent. This created a food shortage for 1959, a shortage which continued and was made worse, but not caused, by the floods and drought of 1960. He points out that although the floods and drought had been mentioned earlier in the year, there was no suggestion until Chou En-lai's speech in November that they were of catastrophic proportions. He considers the catastrophe claims therefore as a political face-saving device.

ASIAN STUDIES

The February Newsletter of the Association for Asian Studies (This Association also publishes The Journal of Asian Studies) has some interesting items about projects now in process. University Microfilms, 313 N. First St., Ann Arbor, Mich., is microfilming back files of journals in the Asian field. It now has the Journal of Asian Studies from 1949 on, Far Eastern Survey from 1950 on, and Pacific Affairs from 1929 on.

Chinese Publishing Statistics, 1949-1959 is an analysis of the 88,912 titles published in mainland China during that period in the social, natural and applied sciences. The Association (Box 606, Ann Arbor) sells this study for one dollar.

Microfilms have been made of the newspaper, periodical and newspaper clipping files of the Union Research Institute in Hong Kong from 1949 on, and these are being deposited in the Midwest Inter-Library Center in Chicago, from where they will be available to other libraries through inter-library loan.

Programs of Chinese studies in various universities are described in this Newsletter, and it is surprising how much activity of this sort there is.

MISSIONARY NEWS

Veteran China missionary Frank W. Price is retiring on July 1 from his position as Director of the Missionary Research Library. After retirement he will serve as Professor of International Studies at Mary Baldwin College in Staunton, Va., for a year before leaving on an extended trip through the Orient.

American Advent Mission Society missionary Joseph Wharton, formerly in Wuhu, died on March 19 in South Vernon, Vermont, at the age of 81.

Kut'ien, Fukien, formerly a mission station for both the Church Missionary Society of the Anglican Church and the American Methodists, was permanently inundated several years ago when a dam was built on the Kut'ien River for an immense power project. The whole city was rebuilt on higher ground alongside the new reservoir. What happened to church property in that transfer we do not know.

CHURCH NEWS

Roman Catholic Archbishop Paul Yu Pin was interviewed on March 16 about the new Fu Jen University to be established in Taipei next autumn. The location of the University has still not been decided upon, although several possible sites have been inspected. One of the colleges, or perhaps the post-graduate school, will be opened in September. It will emphasize religious freedom, and there will be no compulsory religious courses.

International Fides Service reports that two Chinese priests of the Swatow diocese have died in prison. They are Father Paul Chen Ping-jen, born in 1913, and condemned to sixteen years imprisonment in 1959, and Father Chen Ti-min, born in 1914, and given a twelve-year prison sentence in 1955. Both priests had studied for the priesthood in Penang.

The Churches of Christ plan to open a Christian university in Hong Kong, and are seeking to raise $200,000 for the construction of buildings. The Hong Kong Government has offered free land for the project. The school will open as a middle school for the first year, and then one year of college will be added each year for the next four years. The Churches of Christ was formerly the conservative wing of the Disciples of Christ, and broke away from the latter body about 1906. Its membership was reported in 1958 as 1.7 million.

An English clergyman, the Rev. Jack Boggis from Hillingdon, Middlesex, visited China last May, attending church services and meeting Christian leaders in Wuhan, Peking and Shanghai, including Sheng Kung Hui bishop Mao K'e-chung. A British business man also toured China, bringing back pictures of the Yangtze bridge at Wuhan, the new look at the Shanghai race course etc. The Rev. Gilbert Baker, from whom this report came, concluded from the two reports that "the Christians are on the map."

GENERAL NEWS

Shanghai boasts of its musical instrument industry. In pre-liberation days hardly able to turn out anything more than harmonicas and army bugles, it is now making grand pianos, double bass organs and super quality harps, trumpets, flutes and violins. Its musical instrument industry attracts customers from as far as Sinkiang and Inner Mongolia. It also makes all kinds of Chinese traditional instruments, and has invented a Chinese cello, to fill a gap in Chinese instrumental music.

The first full-time college has been set up in the Kantse Tibetan Autonomous Chou, an area comprising all the western end of Szechuan. The college is in Kangting, which is about two hundred kilometers west and a little south of Chengtu. This chou has a population about half a million, five sixths of whom are Tibetans. Three fourths of the school age children are in school and there are thirteen middle schools in the area. The college is beginning with two and five year courses, with special emphasis on mathematics, physics and chemistry. It will gradually expand in scope to become a university.

An official Chinese Buddhist delegation has been visiting Buddhists in Burma. The delegation was led by Venerable Lama Shirob Jaltso, President of the Chinese Buddhist Association.

A native Taiwanese, Huang Kuo-shu, was elected on February 28 as head of the Legislative Yuan, the highest legislative body in Nationalist China.

Dr. Mei Yi-chi, brother of Dr. Mei Yi-pao, formerly on the Yenching University faculty, resigned as Minister of Education for Nationalist China, due to ill health. President Chiang appointed Huang Chi-lo to succeed him.

Six of the subsidiary parties that give the mainland government the semblance of a united front are the Kuomintang Revolutionary Committee, the China Democratic League, the Peasants and Workers' Democratic Party, the Chih Kung Tang (a party of returned overseas Chinese), the Association for Promoting Democracy, and the Chiu San (Nine-Three -- just what it refers to I do not know) Society. They all held extended meetings last summer during August and September in Peking, and before they adjourned joined in a message of greeting to Mao Tse-tung, which closed with Long live the Chinese Communist Party! Long live Chairman Mao! (That this party system differs from the American is apparent if we try to imagine a Republican Party conclave sending a message to President Kennedy with similar wishes for the Democratic Party!)

Chinghai Province now has a university of its own, which opened its doors in November, 1959. It covers 21 specialties including engineering, agriculture, animal husbandry, veterinary surgery, medicine, finance and economics. Universities in Shanghai, Szechuan and other places have provided professors and equipment. We are told that Chinghai now has 350,000 students in middle and primary schools.

Wuhan announced in December that it now has a television station. It previously had two radio stations broadcasting on a morning to midnight schedule.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Library has issued a pamphlet listing all the Communist Chinese periodicals in the agricultural sciences which they have received. The list includes periodicals on agriculture and related fields such as biology, botany, biochemistry, etc., but no agricultural economics, rural sociology and marketing which will be covered in a separate bibliography. There are 115 items in the list, but on many of the magazines referred to their files are very fragmentary.

In the cultural and educational exchanges now taking place between Asia and Egypt, there are two hundred students from Indonesia at Al-Azhar University in Cairo, and eleven from China. There are also fifteen Arab students in Chinese universities.